



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:


February 24, 2014

91-00000
ADM-1.10

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

MEMORANDUM

To: All Reclamation Employees

From: Michael L. Connor
Commissioner *Acting For* 

Subject: Reclamation Engineer of the Year

As we recognize the work of all the engineers who work at the Bureau of Reclamation, it is with great pleasure that I am able to announce Subhrendu Gangopadhyay, Ph.D., of the Technical Service Center, is the 2014 Reclamation Engineer of the Year. He represented Reclamation at the Federal Engineer of the Year Awards Luncheon at the National Press Club in Washington.

Subhrendu is a hydrologic engineer and Reclamation's lead engineer in assessing climate change and its impact on water delivery and consumptive use. In 2011, he developed the process and methodology to complete the *West-wide Climate Risk Assessment*. The report covers eight major Reclamation river basins and assesses specific risks to the water supply of each river basin, including risk relating to a change in snowpack, timing and quantity of runoff, groundwater recharge and discharge and increase in the demand for water as a result of increasing temperatures and rate of reservoir evaporation. He is currently leading the team for a follow up report focusing on estimating agricultural demands with changes in consumptive use and reservoir evaporation in the same eight river basins.

He has also published several papers including: *Statistical modeling of daily and subdaily stream temperatures: Application to the Methow River Basin, Washington*, *Predicting regime shifts in flow of the Gunnison River under changing climate conditions* and *The impact of subsurface conceptualization on land energy fluxes*.

Subhrendu is a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado. He is a member of the American Geophysical Union and has a Doctor of Engineering in Civil Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand. He also completed post-doctoral research at the

University of Colorado in Hydroclimatology.

I would like to recognize the engineers who were named as their respective Region's engineer of the year:

Pacific Northwest Region:	Scott Ross
Mid-Pacific Region:	Todd Hill
Upper Colorado Region:	Ed Vidmar
Great Plains Region:	David Scanson

Please join me in congratulating these winners and all engineers on their work and accomplishments throughout the past year.

Reclamation's engineering expertise is known throughout the world and this expertise is now developing tools to guide a sustainable water and power future for the West. These tools will help Reclamation and its partners confront widening imbalances between supply and demand in basins throughout the West.

Upper Colorado Region Engineer of the Year Ed Vidmar



Provo Area Office, Kent Kofford and Ed Vidmar

Ed Vidmar graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and was a member of Chi Epsilon.

His Civic and Humanitarian Activities include working as an Adventurer Leader for 16 to 18 year old boys helping these youth plan and execute activities one evening per week and for one entire week during the summer months for a high adventure trip. In August 2013, Ed was the lead organizer for the Cast for Kids Event held at Soldier Creek Marina at Strawberry Reservoir.

Ed's Engineering Achievements include: managing and administering Reclamation's review and examination program for 29 high and significant hazard dams in Utah; generating annual Dam Safety and Area Security Reports addressing safety and security activities from the previous



year; and maintaining close communication with the water users to maintain the Standing Operating Procedures and Emergency Action Plans (EAPs).

The 2011 spring runoff was not typical in Northern Utah. The average springtime temperatures were below normal and the snow pack in the mountains above Reclamation's dams were in some cases greater than 200 percent above normal. The candidate played a key role in coordinating and operating Reclamation reservoirs in an effective and efficient manner working with water district personnel and staff from other Federal and state agencies. The candidate was instrumental in routing the flood flows through our facilities while minimizing downstream flooding.

Currently, Ed is a Division Manager within the Provo Area Office managing approximately 20/22 subordinate employees consisting of engineers (Civil and Mechanical), Realty Specialists, Appraisers, and IT Specialists. He is recognized for his expertise in Reclamation O&M and serves as a member on the Reclamation-wide O&M team. Ed is recognized as a budgeting expert and is influential in the formulation of the BRC out-year budgets for the Region and Area Office and the expending of the current year appropriated budget for the Area Office.

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



AGC Civil/Public Works Project of the Year
Echo Dam Embankment – Seismic Modifications



PnK Constructors has completed many Seismic Dam Modifications for the Bureau of Reclamation and understands the specifications and techniques used during the construction process. Most contractors in the Heavy/Civil industry would find the techniques, design elements and materials used to be very stringent and non-standard.

In the process of Seismic Modifications unlike highway construction, zoned embankments require careful placement of various materials without cross-contamination and with exacting compaction standards, which requires a skilled and conscientious Contractor. PNK excelled in these areas and remained flexible and supportive at all times. These high quality attributes factored significantly in a 2 year project that was completed ahead of schedule and under budget with no accidents and no claims.

Photos below



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



Left to Right - Cary Southworth (BOR), Mike Talbot (BOR), Dennis Ashton (PnK), Ivan Ray (WRWUA), Mark Green (AGC), Doug Watts (AGC), Bob Jones (AGC)



Aerial view of Echo Seismic Dam Modifications

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 5, 2014

91-00000
ADM-1.10

MEMORANDUM

To: All Reclamation Employees

From: Lowell Pimley
Acting Commissioner

Subject: Reclamation Leadership Changes

As you read in the all employee email and memo yesterday, former Commissioner Mike Connor has been sworn in as Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Mike has been an outstanding Commissioner and leader for Reclamation. We will miss him and his ability to seamlessly blend technical, legal and political perspectives into the development of decisions and solutions to Reclamation's increasingly complex challenges. His elevation to the Secretary's office is richly deserved and we wish him all the best.

Mike's departure obviously leaves a large void in Reclamation that he has asked me to help fill as acting Commissioner. I'm honored and more than a little humbled being selected to serve in this critical leadership role for our agency. Following Mike Connor is no easy task but, with your help, we'll work our way through the next few months until our next Commissioner is confirmed.

While acting in the Commissioner position, Bob Quint has graciously agreed to act in my position as Deputy Commissioner for Operations, which includes oversight of the Regions, Technical Service Center, Power Resources Office, DEC/DSO office, and Native American and International Affairs office.

Libby Washburn, Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs, will be accompanying Mike to the Deputy Secretary's office to serve as his Chief of Staff. Deputy Commissioner Washburn has only been with us for 10 months but has proven to be an outstanding resource for Reclamation and a trusted counsel to Commissioner Connor. We will miss Libby and also wish her the best.

Dionne Thompson will be acting in Libby's position for a short period until Jennifer Gimbel (currently Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) transfers to Reclamation to permanently fill the Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs position.

We'll share more details on Jennifer's move as they become available.

My thanks to Bob and Dionne for agreeing to cover the Deputy Commissioner jobs during this transition and to Jennifer for agreeing to join Reclamation's leadership team. Most of all my thanks in advance to each of you for your support and ongoing commitment to Reclamation and the critical work we do in service to our nation.



Thoughts from the Front Office

Changes in the Region – Provo Area Office Manager

We recently announced Wayne Pullan as the new Area Manager for the Provo Area Office which has oversight responsibility for 17 Reclamation water projects and associated activities in Utah, southwestern Wyoming, and parts of Idaho and Nevada.

Wayne comes to the position with a wealth of experience and background in Utah water management issues; he brings a strong customer-focused approach and demonstrated ability to implement innovative and collaborative solutions to complex resource challenges.

Wayne has held a number of key positions in which he has overseen the successful development, implementation and coordination of many agency programs and initiatives, including during his most recent tenure as the deputy area manager. He's played vital leadership roles in serving as the federal representative on various multi-stakeholder committees, partnership task forces, advisory councils, and two Native American water rights settlement implementation teams.

Wayne has also been instrumental in resolving many complicated land and water management issues involving Reclamation projects in Utah and Wyoming, and overseen the implementation of important title transfer and environmental compliance activities, risk mitigation solutions, and project infrastructure improvements.

Wayne will assume his new position as the successor to Curt Pledger who retired in December. Join me in congratulating and wishing Wayne well in his new responsibilities.

Brent

[Return to UC Today](#)





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 4, 2014

91-00000
ADM-1.10

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Reclamation Employees

FROM: Michael L. Connor
Commissioner

As you may have heard, the United States Senate has confirmed me to serve as the next Deputy Secretary of the Interior. I am honored by the trust and confidence placed in me by President Obama and look forward to serving directly with Secretary Sally Jewell, who has proven to be a confident leader with a strong vision for the Department's future.

As I take the oath to serve as Deputy Secretary, I will also be departing from my post as the 18th Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation – a journey I began in May of 2009. As I said in my message to you earlier when I was nominated for the post, this transition is somewhat bittersweet. Quite simply, working with all of you on some of the most significant challenges facing the American West has been more rewarding than I could have ever imagined. We have accomplished many amazing things during our tenure together, to the benefit of a large percentage of people in the 17 western states. I am consistently amazed and inspired by the outstanding work performed by the men and women of Reclamation each and every day.

Through the WaterSMART program, we have delivered significant benefits to the public in the form of thoughtful water conservation, water recycling and reuse projects, as well as countless other benefits. We have improved water supplies to tribal communities and taken on the work of implementing many long-overdue treaty obligations through our Indian water rights activities. Also, thanks to Reclamation employees, we have been able to study and better understand the impacts of climate change and drought – developing science-based measures to encourage healthy watersheds and plan for a more sustainable use of our precious but limited water supplies.

Through our river restoration activities, we are well on our way to making Reclamation as well known for restoration in the 21st Century, as it was known for the massive water infrastructure projects that were our 20th Century legacy. We have taken great strides toward a framework of solutions for the California Bay-Delta, as well as the Colorado and Klamath River basins. Many in Reclamation have also worked to expand the role of hydropower and maximize new, sustainable hydropower opportunities. We even weathered a government shutdown together while fulfilling our mission to generate power, deliver water, and conduct our operations in a

way that maintained the health and safety of our employees and the people we serve, as well as the security of vital water and power infrastructure. Without your dedication and hard work, Reclamation could not tackle these and many other important issues.

I want to congratulate Lowell Pimley for being selected to serve in the position of Acting Commissioner. Reclamation is in good hands with Lowell's wealth of experience, practical knowledge and great skill. He has provided me thoughtful advice and counsel in his current position as Deputy Commissioner for Operations and I am confident he will be an effective and knowledgeable leader in the coming weeks and months until the confirmation of your next Commissioner.

Many of you have sent me congratulatory e-mails over the past several days, which include complimentary messages regarding my leadership of this agency. As much as I appreciate those notes, I simply must acknowledge that any success I've had is because of your efforts, experience, and dedication to Reclamation's mission. I am proud to have worked alongside you during this time and to share with you our part in the history of Reclamation's many achievements. In my new position, I take great comfort in that continued association and look forward to continuing our work to carry out Reclamation and Interior's mission.



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Google Docs and Search

ASC Training February 2014

Upper Colorado Region





RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Do You
know how to
Search
the *Internet?*



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Quick Tips: type these terms in Google without a space and find what you are looking for:

allintext:

Use this to restrict searches with only these words in the body of the article (i.e. allintext:Utah Water Rights).

allintitle:

Use this to restrict searches with only the words that appear in the article title (i.e. allintitle:Bureau of Reclamation).

author:

Use this to search articles with the individual (author:“Virginia Wolf”) as Author

define:

Use this to render searches only on the specific subject that you are looking for (define:“water rights”)

group:

Use this to restrict searches to news agency and groups that you select (i.e. group:Bureau of Reclamation)



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Quick Tips: type these terms in Google without a space and find what you are looking for:

insubject:

Use this to restrict information to articles containing specified subjects (i.e. insubject:"Utah Water Rights")

intitle:

Use this to further restrict your search "Utah intitle:water rights"

location:

Within Google News, you can specify only locations where the news comes from (i.e. Utah)

related:

Use this to render searches that are similar to the one you are looking for "related:facebook.com"

site:

Use this to restrict searches to a specific site (i.e. water rights site:wikipedia.com).



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Google Chrome:





RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Quick Tips: type these terms in Google without a space and find what you are looking for:

Quotations“”:

Use quotations to have exact phrases in text i.e. “utah water rights.”

Minus symbol -:

Use this to negate something you are not looking for Water rights- Utah

Or:

Use this to specify only certain things that you are looking for “water rights” or Lehi or Salt Lake.

Parentheses:

Use () to group items together that you are looking for (water rights and Utah)



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Google Search

Web Images Video Maps News Shopping Gmail more » [Sign in](#)

Google [Advanced Search](#)

Web [Show options...](#) Results 1 - 10 of about 548,000 for **multiracial AND culture** (0.29 seconds)

[Scholarly articles for multiracial AND culture](#)

[Varian 2000](#) - [Miles](#) - Cited by 22
[Cultures, religion and childbearing in a multiracial ...](#) - [Schell](#) - Cited by 43
[Multicultural/multiracial psychology: Mestiza ...](#) - [Ramirez](#) - Cited by 48

[Biracial and Multiracial Groups in the Yahoo! Directory](#)
... [Society and Culture](#) > [Cultures and Groups](#) > [Biracial and Multiracial ...](#) Activist journal
covering civil rights issues of interest to **multiracial ...**
[de.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Cultures_and_Groups/Biracial_and_Multiracial/](#) - 12k -
[Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Center for Study - Background](#)
Within predominantly white organizations, whiteness still remained an unexamined barrier to
developing a **multiracial organizational culture** ...
[www.eurasianamerican.org/genealogy/index.asp](#) - 10k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Parenting Multiracial Children by F Wang](#)
"My teenage children are now fourth generation **multiracial** people in a **multiracial**
culture," says Baginaw, "but I want them to feel a kinship with people ..."
[www.endlessly.com/vpages/Asianfamily_lifestyle_traditions/wang](#)
[parenting_multiracial_children.asp](#) - 51k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[SFIAAFF Panel: Multiracial Multimedia Culture/Entertainment SFAppeal](#)
Mar 16, 2009 ... The San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival panel on
Multiracial/Multimedia took place at the Hotel Kabuki on Saturday ...
[sfappeal.com/culture/0000003/sfiaaff-panel-multiracialmultimedia-the-sa.asp](#) - 20k -
[Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Google Alerts: Virtual Research Assistant

The screenshot shows the Google Alerts (BETA) web interface within a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The browser's address bar displays "http://www.google.com/alerts". The page features the Google logo and the text "Google Alerts (BETA)". Below this, a "Welcome to Google Alerts" section explains that Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google results (web, news, etc.) based on the user's choice of query or topic. It lists some handy uses of Google Alerts, such as monitoring a developing news story, keeping current on a competitor or industry, getting the latest on a celebrity or event, and keeping tabs on favorite sports teams. A "Create a Google Alert" form is prominently displayed on the right side of the page. This form includes fields for "Search terms" (containing "choppers"), "Type" (set to "Comprehensive"), "How often" (set to "once a week"), and "Your email" (containing "booth@history.org"). A "Create Alert" button is located at the bottom of the form. The footer of the page includes copyright information for 2007 Google and links to Google Home, Google Alerts Help, Terms of Use, and Privacy Policy.

Google Alerts - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Search Favorites Go

http://www.google.com/alerts

Google Alerts (BETA)

Welcome to Google Alerts

Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google results (web, news, etc.) based on your choice of query or topic.

Some handy uses of Google Alerts include:

- monitoring a developing news story
- keeping current on a competitor or industry
- getting the latest on a celebrity or event
- keeping tabs on your favorite sports teams

Create an alert with the form on the right.

You can also [sign in to manage your alerts](#)

Create a Google Alert

Enter the topic you wish to monitor

Search terms:

Type:

How often:

Your email:

Google will not act on alerts you don't address

© 2007 Google - [Google Home](#) - [Google Alerts Help](#) - [Terms of Use](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Gmail Organization:

A screenshot of a Gmail inbox interface. The left sidebar shows the "Labels" section with a "More" link. A black arrow points from a text box to this "More" link. The main inbox area displays several email entries. The text box contains the following text:

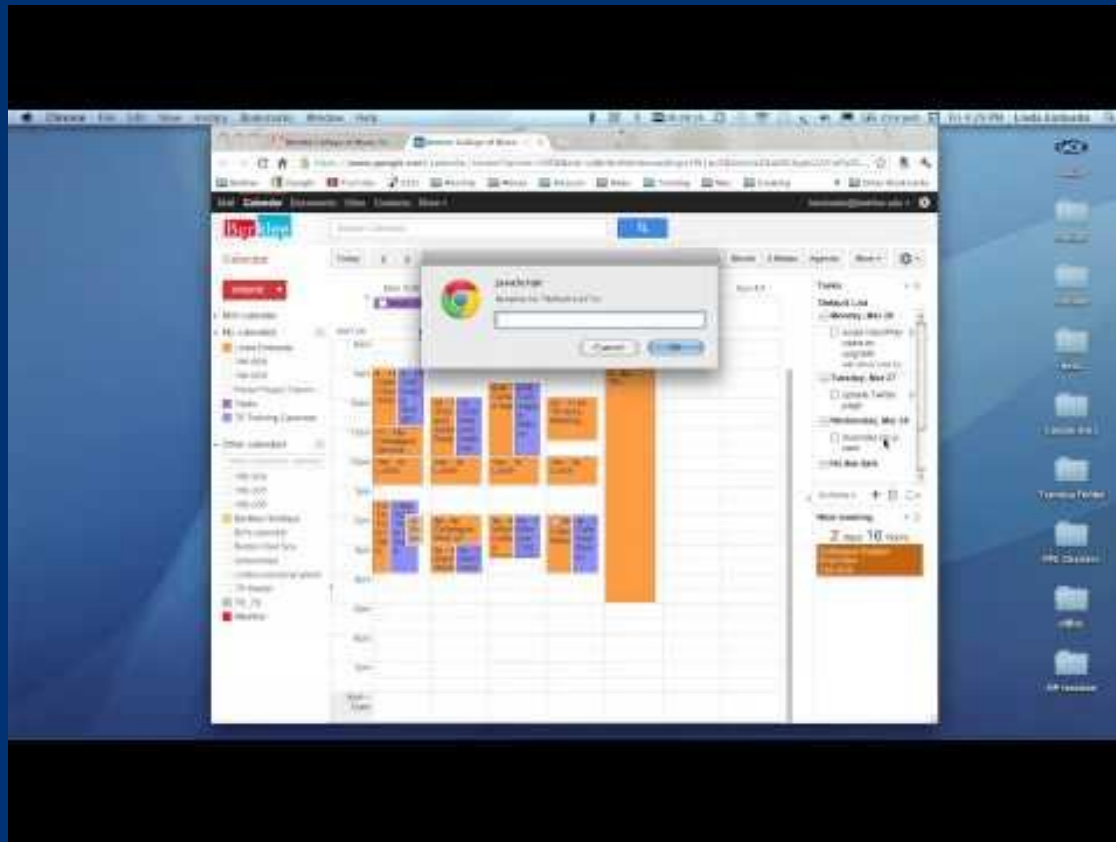
You can also create new labels by clicking the "More" dropdown - useful if you want to create a bunch of labels ahead of time!



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Google Tasks:

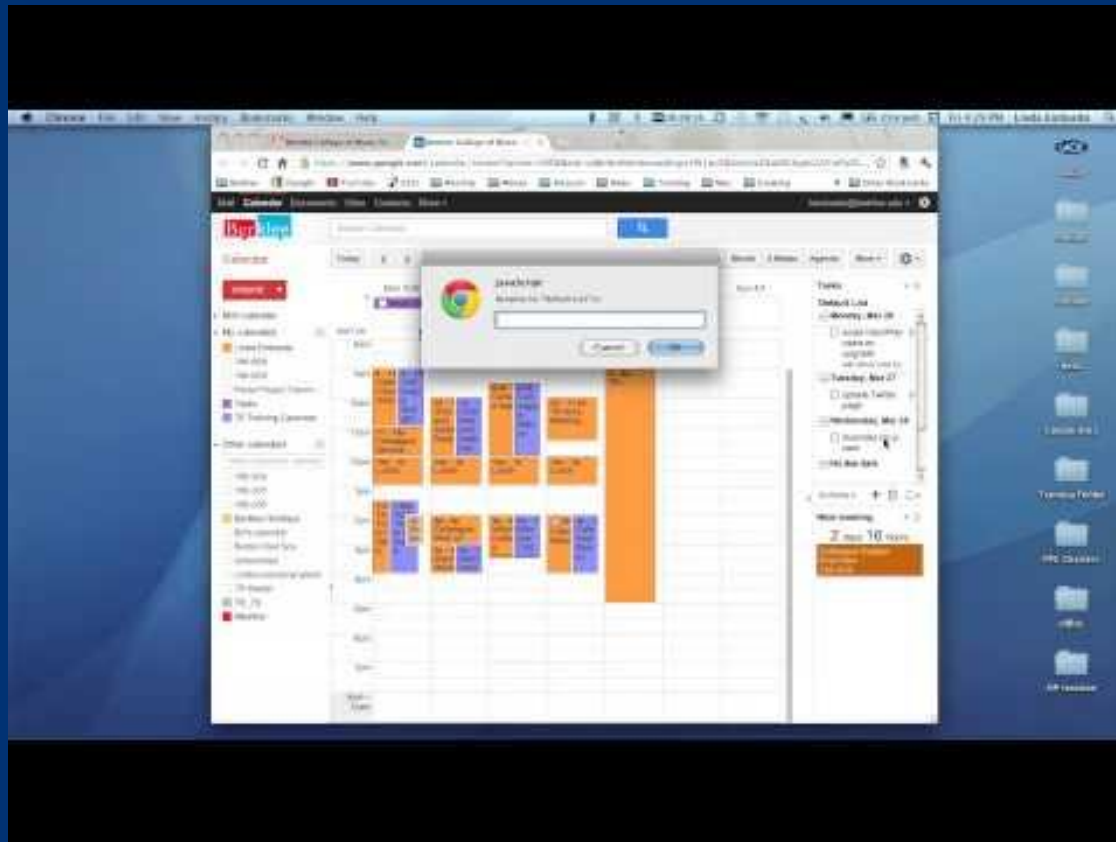




RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Advanced Google Docs:





Recycling Facts Worth Sharing



Recycling everyday objects, such as paper, bottles, and magazines saves energy. The materials that you recycle are used to create the products you buy. This means less virgin material need to be mined or harvested, processed, manufactured, and transported—all of which consume energy.

EPA created the Waste Reduction Model (WARM) to help solid waste planners and organizations track and voluntarily report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions from several different waste management practices.

What some might consider an insignificant contribution to recycling, consider the following:

Recycling 1 aluminum can will save enough energy to power a laptop for 5.2 hours!

Recycling 1 plastic bottle can save enough energy to power a laptop for 2.5 hours!

Recycling 1 plastic grocery bag can save enough energy to power a laptop for 3 hours!

WARM calculates and totals GHG emissions of baseline and alternative waste management practices—source reduction, recycling, combustion, composting, and landfilling. The model calculates emissions in metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCE), metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂E), and energy units (million BTU) across a wide range of material types commonly found in municipal solid waste (MSW).

So the next time you consider discarding these items think again! Recycling these items makes the world a better place and helps us all in "going green."

[Return to UC Today](#)



Retirement Planning - The TSP's New Millionaires

By [Tammy Flanagan](#) National Institute of Transition Planning

© Government Executive - 2013 by National Journal Group, Inc. All rights reserved.

Saving a million dollars for your retirement is quite an accomplishment. Saving a million dollars in an average of 25.7 years in the federal Thrift Savings Plan is a really big accomplishment. As of December 2013, more than 1,600 TSP participants can say that they have done just that. Some of these balances were started with seed money from other investments transferred from 401(k) plans, but there are some pure TSP millionaires. One TSP account holder has a balance of more than \$3 million.

As for the rest of the more than 4.6 million participants in the TSP, the breakdown of balances looks like this:

- Under \$50,000: 2,798,820
- \$50,000 - \$249,999: 1,424,999
- \$250,000 - \$499,999: 335,638
- \$500,000 - \$749,999: 71,272
- \$750,000 - \$999,999: 11,063

So the reality is that 98 percent of the TSP participants have less than \$500,000 in their accounts. But many of them are still early in their careers, and thus are in position for outstanding growth in their account balances. One key is to start investing early. Even if you aren't contributing 10 percent or even 5 percent of your salary to your TSP account, try to do 3 percent. When you get a pay increase, increase the percentage you contribute.

Another key is to be consistent. College, vacations, cars and other big ticket items should be funded in separate accounts from your TSP savings. And don't try to time the stock market. Jumping in and out of the market based on what happened yesterday or today is risky business. Stay diversified and periodically rebalance your funds. If you're not sure how to do this, use the Lifecycle (L) funds to do it automatically as you progress through your career or hire a financial adviser to help you set realistic goals.

And remember, you might not need \$1 million in your TSP account to reach your retirement goals. Everyone's situation is different. Consider how much of your income will be replaced with your basic retirement benefit and Social Security. For many people, these benefits will cover living expenses. For some, especially those in the Civil Service Retirement System, the retirement benefit will provide even more than needed to meet day-to-day expenses. Others will have military retirement or other pensions to rely on.

Hitting the Million Mark

Jim, a NASA employee from California, told me he hit the \$1,000,000 mark in his TSP just last week. And he admits he made several mistakes along the way. For example, he was fully invested in the C Fund right before 2000 and didn't diversify into other accounts until 2002. (Jim is perhaps being a little hard on himself here: His approach allowed him to ride the stock market to big gains from 1995 to 1999. And from 2000 to 2002, he was buying stocks when they were down, allowing him to get more shares at lower prices.) Then he did the same thing in 2007, returning 100 percent of his TSP balance to the C Fund and not diversifying until he had lost close to half the value of his account. And he waited until the market was six months into the recovery before he began to put money back in stocks.

You might say Jim had some luck in his efforts to time market gains, but nonetheless, in the end he succeeded. Jim will be retiring this year, so now he will need to manage his account in his retirement years. It will be even more critical to make wise choices for rebalancing and reallocating his funds. He will need continued growth to allow for many years of retirement.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Leave it to the Lifecycle Funds

Jim was obviously paying attention to his account, even if by his own admission he didn't always make the best investment decisions. For those with less tolerance for risk, the Lifecycle funds can keep you diversified into all five of the TSP investment choices. Not only that, but the L Funds adjust automatically to invest more aggressively when you are farther from needing the money and get more conservative as you get closer to the target date of the fund (roughly timed to your projected retirement date).

The final Lifecycle fund is the L Income Fund, aimed at those who are currently withdrawing monthly payments from their TSP accounts. It invests very conservatively. From its inception in 2005 through 2013, the L Income fund never went above a 9 percent annual rate of return or below a 9 percent loss. The fund is invested at the following balance:

- G Fund: 74%
- F Fund: 6%
- C Fund: 12%
- S Fund: 3%
- I Fund: 5%

On the other hand, look at the L2040 Fund, aimed at those far away from retirement. This fund gained a 15 percent to 32 percent rate of return in some of the good years since its inception in 2005, but also lost more than 30 percent in 2008. The L2040 fund started out with the following diversification of investments:

- G Fund: 5%
- F Fund: 10%
- C Fund: 42%
- S Fund: 18%
- I Fund: 25%

By January 2014, this same fund had gradually become more diversified, but still not too conservative, since the 2040 target date is still 26 years away:

- G Fund: 14.35%
- F Fund: 9.15%
- C Fund: 38.6%
- S Fund: 16.30%
- I Fund: 21.60%

By 2040, the balances will roll into the L Income fund when they reach their target date. But note that even the L Income Fund is not 100 percent allocated to the ultra-safe government securities G Fund. And conversely, even the L 2050 Fund - the farthest target date fund -- maintains 4.5 percent of its balance in the G Fund, just to provide a hedge against market dips.

Overall, the L funds allow participants to sleep better at night. So if you're not comfortable diversifying and rebalancing funds yourself, [check them out](#). They might just provide you a little peace of mind.

By Tammy Flanagan

<http://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/retirement-planning/2013/08/mystery-vanishing-service-credit/67946/>

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 5, 2014

91-00000
ADM-1.10

MEMORANDUM

To: All Reclamation Employees

From: Lowell Pimley
Acting Commissioner

Subject: Reclamation Leadership Changes

As you read in the all employee email and memo yesterday, former Commissioner Mike Connor has been sworn in as Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Mike has been an outstanding Commissioner and leader for Reclamation. We will miss him and his ability to seamlessly blend technical, legal and political perspectives into the development of decisions and solutions to Reclamation's increasingly complex challenges. His elevation to the Secretary's office is richly deserved and we wish him all the best.

Mike's departure obviously leaves a large void in Reclamation that he has asked me to help fill as acting Commissioner. I'm honored and more than a little humbled being selected to serve in this critical leadership role for our agency. Following Mike Connor is no easy task but, with your help, we'll work our way through the next few months until our next Commissioner is confirmed.

While acting in the Commissioner position, Bob Quint has graciously agreed to act in my position as Deputy Commissioner for Operations, which includes oversight of the Regions, Technical Service Center, Power Resources Office, DEC/DSO office, and Native American and International Affairs office.

Libby Washburn, Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs, will be accompanying Mike to the Deputy Secretary's office to serve as his Chief of Staff. Deputy Commissioner Washburn has only been with us for 10 months but has proven to be an outstanding resource for Reclamation and a trusted counsel to Commissioner Connor. We will miss Libby and also wish her the best.

Dionne Thompson will be acting in Libby's position for a short period until Jennifer Gimbel (currently Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science) transfers to Reclamation to permanently fill the Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs position.

We'll share more details on Jennifer's move as they become available.

My thanks to Bob and Dionne for agreeing to cover the Deputy Commissioner jobs during this transition and to Jennifer for agreeing to join Reclamation's leadership team. Most of all my thanks in advance to each of you for your support and ongoing commitment to Reclamation and the critical work we do in service to our nation.



Provo Area Office Employee Curt Pledger Retires



On December 28, 2013, after 34 years in public service, Curtis A. Pledger retired. Curt was a graduate from the University of Utah in Civil Engineering and came to the Bureau of Reclamation in 1980, after working a short time for WAPA. Curt spent his entire career in the Provo Area Office (the name of the office changed early in his career) and was the Project Construction Engineer for many Reclamation Projects and Resident Engineer for numerous Central Utah Completion Act Projects. He was instrumental in completing the following projects (this is only a few):

Pineview Dam SOD Modification
Lost Creek Dam SOD Modification
Deer Creek Dam SOD Modification
Echo Dam SOD Modification
Steinaker Dam SOD Modification

Glen Canyon Dam Emergency Spillway Repair
Fontenelle Dam Cutoff Wall
Syar Tunnel
Sixth Water Aqueduct
Meeks Cabin Dam Cutoff Wall

After the 1992 CUPCA Legislation, Curt continued the ongoing efforts to complete the Central Utah Project under the direction of the Department of the Interior and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. He worked as Resident Engineer on the Diamond Fork System which included the Diamond Fork



Pipeline and the Upper Diamond Fork System. Basically, Curt was responsible for and oversaw the construction of all the tunnels and pipelines between Strawberry Reservoir and the intersection at Diamond Fork and US 6 in Spanish Fork Canyon, about 23 miles of water conveyance facility.

In 2008, Curt was promoted to Deputy Area Manager and completed his career as the Area Manager. Many generations will benefit from Curt's service in providing for the development of water projects. Curt is looking forward to spending more time with his family, fishing, and traveling across the country in his RV.



[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

March 2014
Upper Colorado Region



UC Today

WCAO Attends Safety Fair



On February 20 and 21, 2014, the Western Colorado Area Office hosted a booth at the 35th Annual Mesa County Safety Fair in Grand Junction, Colo. The Safety Fair was attended by approximately 1,200, second and fourth graders from local elementary schools. At the booth the kids learned about the dangers of irrigation canals and that they shouldn't play in or near the canals. Also, there were water safety tips about learning to swim, swimming where there is a life guard, and to always wearing a life vest when you are in a boat. As the kids left the booth they all got a copy of an Otto Otter's coloring book.

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Regional Office
125 South State Street, Room 6107
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UC-861
PRM-4.00

FEB 14, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

MEMORANDUM

To: All Upper Colorado (UC) Region Employees

From: Anamarie Gold /s/
Accountable Officer

Subject: Employee Property Accountability and Responsibility Notice

This memorandum is to remind each of you the importance of following the required property management policies, procedures, and responsibilities set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Departmental Manual, Reclamation Manual, public laws, and executive orders. These regulations govern the receipt of personal property and services, accountability, record keeping, and management of Government-owned personal property.

All employees who use Government property are accountable and responsible for the items they use. Employees using Government property are considered Cognizant Employees, and as such, are accountable and responsible for the proper and reasonable care, use, and return of items regardless of original acquisition cost. (Bureau of Reclamation Manual <http://www.usbr.gov/recman/FPMR/60-200.html>). Special care should be given to portable items such as laptops, iPads, cellular phones, pagers, cameras, etc. Employees are responsible for the physical security of Government IT equipment they have been assigned to or are using. Portable equipment shall be protected from loss or theft at all times. Government IT equipment shall not be checked with luggage when on travel, left in plain sight in rental or personal vehicles, physically mistreated in any intentional manner, loaned to third parties without property authorization, or left unattended in public places.

An employee to whom Government property has been assigned and who is responsible for its control and care is a Custodial Officer (CO). The COs are designated in writing by the Accountable Officer at their duty station. It is the responsibility of the CO to secure his/her assigned property. The COs are encouraged to use hand receipts to control all assigned property which they do not personally use.

No Government property may be used for any activity other than official purposes. Damage, destruction, or loss of property resulting from misuse may be considered negligence, and could result in financial liability. When Government property is no longer required, or is unserviceable, it should be returned to the local property staff for reutilization or disposal.

Accountable, Capitalized, and Sensitive property is controlled by numbered barcodes and are controlled in the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS). The CO is required to certify annually to the accuracy and accountability of property assigned to him/her.

Upon receipt of Government property, all employees are required to sign an acknowledgment for the receipt of items, whether purchased, acquired by transfer, or through excess property sources. All purchase card holders are responsible for etching or affixing Government ownership identification markings as required by 410 DM 114-60.6

(http://www.doi.gov/pam/programs/property_management/Identification-of-Personal-Property.cfm#bullet1) and Reclamation Manual 114S-60.6 (<http://www.usbr.gov/recman/FPMR/60-600.html>) on all Government acquired property. All Government property classified as nonexpendable will be permanently marked to indicate Reclamation ownership with either a generic barcode label, with the name "Bureau of Reclamation" or the initials "U.S.B.R." Generic barcode labels are available from local property management staff. Instances where standard-marking methodology appears inappropriate, purchase card holders should work with local property management staff for resolution.

All **system controlled property** (\geq \$5,000); **all** laptop and desktop computers; and all equipment requiring a license plate must be identified as Government equipment, assigned a property control number, and be entered into the FBMS. An approved property pass, form 7-2604 (<https://dosp/inforesc/itservices/PrintandDup/forms/7Forms/7-2604.pdf>), is required whenever Government property is removed from Government sites. This form is obtained from each IT group or your local property office.

All employees are responsible for notifying, in writing, their local property management staff of any losses, thefts, or damage to Government property regardless of the original acquisition cost within 24 hours after the date the incident was first reported. Based on the information, a determination will be made as to whether formal investigation is required to determine employee liability. Any employee may be held financially liable for lost, stolen, or damaged property if circumstances indicate fraud, property irregularities, or unofficial use.

The documentation should be forwarded to the local property staff, and include the following information:

- Date and circumstances surrounding the loss, theft, or damage
- Witness statements
- Police reports
- Employee signature and notification date

Any property no longer required by an employee for official business must be returned to the local property manager for final disposition of the asset. To ensure integrity of the property management process, only local property management officials have the authority and responsibility to transfer or dispose of Government assets.

If you have any questions or clarifications, please contact Jodi Benson at 801-524-3821, Virginia Thurgood at 801-524-3623, or Wendy Monroe at 801-524-3770.



In Transition

Former GP Region Employee Robert Harry "Bob" Adams dies

Robert H. "Bob" Adams, 88, of Hastings, Nebraska, died Saturday, February 8, 2014, at Mary Lanning Hospital. Services will be Wednesday, February 12, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia Catholic Church, in Hastings. The celebrant is Rev. Joseph M. Walsh. Burial will be in the Grand Island City Cemetery with a 1:30 p.m. committal service. Military rites will be provided by the United Veterans Honor Guard and the U.S. Marine Honor Team. A rosary will be recited, at the church, prior to the service at 10:00 a.m. Curran Funeral Chapel is assisting the family.

Bob was born July 21, 1925, at Grand Island, Nebraska. He was the son of Earl G. and Helen M. (Clinger) Adams.

Survivors of the immediate family include his wife of 66 years, Kathryn A. Adams of Hastings, NE

One daughter and son-in-law, Roxanne and Jack Janeke of Lincoln, NE

One son, Robert J. Adams of Hastings, NE

One sister, Joanne Ziola of La Habra, CA

Others left to cherish his memory include his grandson, Heath Janeke, granddaughter and spouse, Kristine and Ryan Amen, great grandchildren, Alexander and Alicia Janeke.

Bob grew up in Grand Island receiving his education at Grand Island High School. He entered the Marine Corps on October 8, 1943. He served in the Communication Section of the Artillery Regiment of the 1st Marine Division in the South Pacific. He saw action at Peleliu, Palu Islands, Okinawa, Rynkyu Islands, and the Occupation of China. He married Kathryn Ann Rose on June 2, 1947, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island, NE. They moved to Hastings, NE, where he worked at the Naval Ammunition Depot, the Bureau of Reclamation, and retired in 1980, after 37 years of federal service, from the U.S. Postal Service.

Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, playing cards and renovating old homes.

He was a member of St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Hastings V.F.W. and Legion, and past member of St. Michael's Catholic Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sons, Michael Joseph and Richard Francis Adams, three sisters, Dorothy Ludden, Maxine Dolansky, and Jean Barker, and one brother, Earl J. Adams.

In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to St. Cecilia Catholic Church or for mass offerings.

Online condolences may be given at www.curranfuneralchapel.com under Bob's obituary.

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Sharing Our Diversity by Sharing Your Recipes

From the kitchen of **Jodi Benson – Creamy Brownie Frosting**

What makes a good brownie is really the frosting.

Jodi – from the property office used to make brownies from scratch. Well... she still makes the Texas Sheet Cake brownies when she has time. But short on time, she'll buy a store bought brownie mix, like.. "Betty Crocker" or "Pillsbury". She'll mix the ingredients as instructed on the box and then bake it. Once it comes out of the oven and after the brownies have cooled. She will whip up the frosting.



Frosting Ingredients:

Butter (1/2 cup or a cup), soften
Vanilla extract (if, desire)
Whipping cream (2 T.)
Milk (2% or nonfat) (1 T)
Hershey's Cocoa
Walnuts (fine or chopped)

Directions: With electric mixer, mix the butter until creamy. Add whipping cream, milk, cocoa and vanilla. Add the power sugar. You may need to add more liquid. If this is the case, add the cream. Mix to desire consistency in order to spread on brownies. Spread on the brownies and sprinkle with nuts (walnuts) if desire. Enjoy!!

[Return to UC Today](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[Guest Editorial by Rep. Kay McCliff](#)

[LAS CRUCES >> Las Cruces native Michael Connor received unanimous approval Thursday from the U.S. Senate to serve as the next deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, according to a news release.](#)

[Drought Watch: Bureau of Reclamation hit over cuts](#)

[Dry winter doesn't mean dire straits for farmers](#) video

[Ute project receives \\$2.3 million in funding](#)

[Colorado River shortages could occur by 2016 or 2017](#)

[NMSU graduate confirmed as U.S. Deputy Secretary of Interior Department](#)

[The mussels can quickly reproduce](#) video

[New Mexico's Michael Connor confirmed as deputy Interior secretary](#)

[but one area is seeing a big reversal](#) video

[Elephant Butte Reservoir are 40](#) video

[Feds side with Texas in battle over water](#)

[but there's good news at elephant butte](#) video

[Letter: Refusing Medicaid money from feds would be costly to Utah](#)

[More drilling proposed along Utah's Strawberry River](#)

[How The Hoover Dam Got It's Name](#)

[More quagga mussels invade Lake Powell](#)

[Science Takes On a Silent Invader](#)

[Quagga Mussel Infestation Greater Than Feared At Lake Powell In Glen Canyon NRA](#)

[Quagga mussels have invaded Lake Powell, Glen Canyon Dam](#) video

[More invasive quagga mussels found in Lake Powell; new discoveries come as lake levels fall](#)

[Udall Urges Congress to Extend Water Conservation, Monitoring Programs](#)

[Invasive Mussel Population Expected to Rise at Lake Powell](#)

[How NASA is recycling urine into drinking water](#)

[About Utah: Q-and-A with a Nobel laureate](#)

[Colorado River tops 2013 endangered waterways list](#)

[Living on borrowed water](#)

[More quagga mussels found in Lake Powell; Is the Lower Colorado River ecosystem at risk?](#)

[overseeing the rio grande](#) video

[Legend lends mystique to Columbia River span](#)

[Portraits of the past: Elephant Butte](#)

[With Gila River deadline looming, New Mexico debates its water options](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation Names 2014 Engineer of the Year](#)

[The "worst drought since..." parlor game](#)

[States challenge effectiveness of fish hatcheries](#)

[Legend lends mystique to Columbia River span](#)

[Stuff I wrote elsewhere: New Mexico drought, Billy the Kid edition](#)

[The Ten Biggest American Cities That Are Running Out Of Water](#)

[Editorial: Court tells Rio Grande diversion foes to dry up](#)

[Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System to receive \\$4M from State Water Project Fund](#)

[Colorado River basin water planners gather local input](#)

[The Worst Drought in Five Centuries](#)



[Fate of Gila River Brewing In New Mexico](#)

[How the West will be Lost](#)

[Editorial: Update Endangered Species Act for minnow and ABQ water users](#)

[Sierra Gets Welcome Snow](#)

[Climate: Storms bolster Colorado snowpack](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation Names David Raff as Science Advisor](#)

[Gila River diversion plan 'fatally flawed,' water expert says](#)

[NM court allows Pecos River hearing to proceed](#)

[New water powers unlikely to help this year](#)

[A river with no water](#)

[Goose Bay renters forced out](#)

[Return to UC Today](#)

[Lake Roosevelt water levels continue to plunge](#)

[Water managers say slight reprieve from April storms not expected to last | GJSentinel.com](#)

[There's no denying issues with Colorado River](#)

[Video series examines issues facing Colorado River](#) video

[Canadian bank funds Colorado River restoration project](#)

[Water Releases From Amistad Dam Increase; High Flows Expected in Rio Grande as Lake Level Drops](#)

[Willoughby: Bring on more snow to help with depleted snowpack](#)

[Mexican delta thirsts for relief](#)

['Hero beavers' struggling to survive effects of fuel spill](#)

[Colorado River tops 2013 endangered waterways list - Chicago News and Weather | FOX 32 News](#)

[Justices ask White House for input on Texas-N.M. water dispute](#)



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation